

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-38 (**Canceled**)

39. (**Currently Amended**) In a computer system comprising a client computer and a server system, wherein the server system controls access to resource websites and generates and sends fast cookies and slow cookies to the client, and wherein the server has already sent a fast cookie to the client and has initially authenticated the client, a method for transmitting slow cookies to the client from the server system, comprising:

- a) the server receiving from the client a connection request to the server system, said connection request including a clear gif link, said request (1) including an indicia evidencing client receipt of the slow cookie or (2) not including an indicia evidencing client receipt of the slow cookie;
- b) based on the clear gif link connection request, the server system determining if the slow cookie has been received by the client pursuant to a prior request from the client;
- c) wherein, if the slow cookie is determined by the server system to have been previously received by the client, the server system responds to the connection request with a clear gif response without the slow cookie, and permits the client to access further resources from one or more of said websites[.];
- d) wherein, if the slow cookie is determined by the server system not to have been previously received by the client, the server system attempts to generate and provide the slow cookie in a clear gif response that includes the slow cookie;  
wherein the fast cookie is immediately available and the slow cookie is not immediately available.

40. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 39 wherein, if the server system determines the slow cookie was not previously received by the client,

- e) the server system determines if the slow cookie (1) has ~~at least one of~~ been prepared ~~and~~ or (2) is in the queue awaiting transmission to the client and, if so,
- f) the server system sends the slow cookie to the client included in the clear gif response.

41. **(Currently Amended)** A programmed computer system including a server for connecting a client computer to resource websites, comprising:

- (A) a browser for said client computer programmed to send a website connection request to the server, said request including a clear gif link, said request further (1) including an indicia evidencing client receipt of a slow cookie or (2) not including an indicia evidencing receipt of the slow cookie;
- (B) a server including memory and processor wherein the processor is programmed to:
  - (1) control access to said resource websites;
  - (2) determine from memory if it has previously sent a fast cookie to said client computer and initially authenticated the client computer;
  - (3) based on the clear gif link connection request from the client, the server system determining if the slow cookie has been received by the client pursuant to a prior request from the client;
  - (4) wherein, if the slow cookie is determined by the server system to have been previously received by the client, the server system responds to the connection request with a clear gif response without the slow cookie, and permits the client to access further resources from one or more of said websites;

wherein the fast cookie is immediately available and the slow cookie is not immediately available; ~~and~~

42. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 41 wherein, if the server system determines the slow cookie was not previously received by the client, the server system is programmed to:

- (5) determine if the slow cookie (a) has been ~~at least one of~~ prepared ~~and~~ or (b) is in the queue awaiting transmission to the client's browser and, if so, to send the

slow cookie to the client computer in a clear gif response the to thereby to  
enable the client computer to access said website resources.